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The American Muslim voter: Community belonging and political participation

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THE AMERICAN *MUSLIM* VOTER:  
COMMUNITY BELONGING AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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**ABSTRACT:** The past few election cycles have brought increased attention on voting rates among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States, focusing on African Americans, Asian Americans and Latinos. Building on theories of in-group identity, we assess whether or not American Muslims are similarly mobilized to vote consonant with other ethnic minorities in the U.S. whereby in-group attachment and group-level resources encourage participation. Using a national sample of American Muslims, we find that those who live around more co-ethnics and those who actively engage their religious identity are more likely to report they voted, and more likely to vote Democratic. This research offers the first evidence that American Muslims may follow similar patterns of in-group identity mobilization to other racial and ethnic groups in the United States.

**KEYWORDS:** *Muslim Americans; political participation; voting; elections; in-group identity; religious identity.*

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